BOOM! STUDIOS™

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 12

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

HELP... I NEED *HELP!*

PLEASE! YOU *HAVE* TO BE HERE. YOU HAVE TO *HELP US.*

KID, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US, BUT I'M NOT LETTING THAT WOMAN ANYWHERE ***NEAR*** THE GIRL.

YOU SHOULD RUN AWAY, TOO. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOT PLANNED FOR YOU.

SHE'S GOING TO USE ME AS BAIT.

OKAY, SO YOU'RE CRAZY.

FINE, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING ***BIAN*** INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS.

PLEASE...

SHE'S ***HURT.*** I THINK SHE'S DYING.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ONE OF THE MONSTERS ***BIT*** HER.

LOOK, JAMES...

JUST SHUT UP AND HELP ME GET HER INSIDE. I'M JUST A ***FUCKING KID.*** I CAN'T DO THIS MYSELF.

SHIT.

HEY, JOHN.

WHEN I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO SOMEWHERE STUPID LIKE YOUR HOUSE, I DIDN'T MEAN JUST GO TO YOUR ***PARENTS'*** HOUSE.

THEY'RE IN THE TWIN CITIES VISITING MY SISTER. I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A LOT OF ***SPARE HOUSES*** TO HIDE OUT IN.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I GOT *LUCKY.* ONE DOWN, FOUR TO GO.

I CAN STITCH MYSELF UP IF JAMES GRABS MY BACKPACK. IT LOOKS WORSE THAN IT IS.

ARE YOU SURE?

NO.

KID, GRAB HER BAG.

YEAH, OKAY.

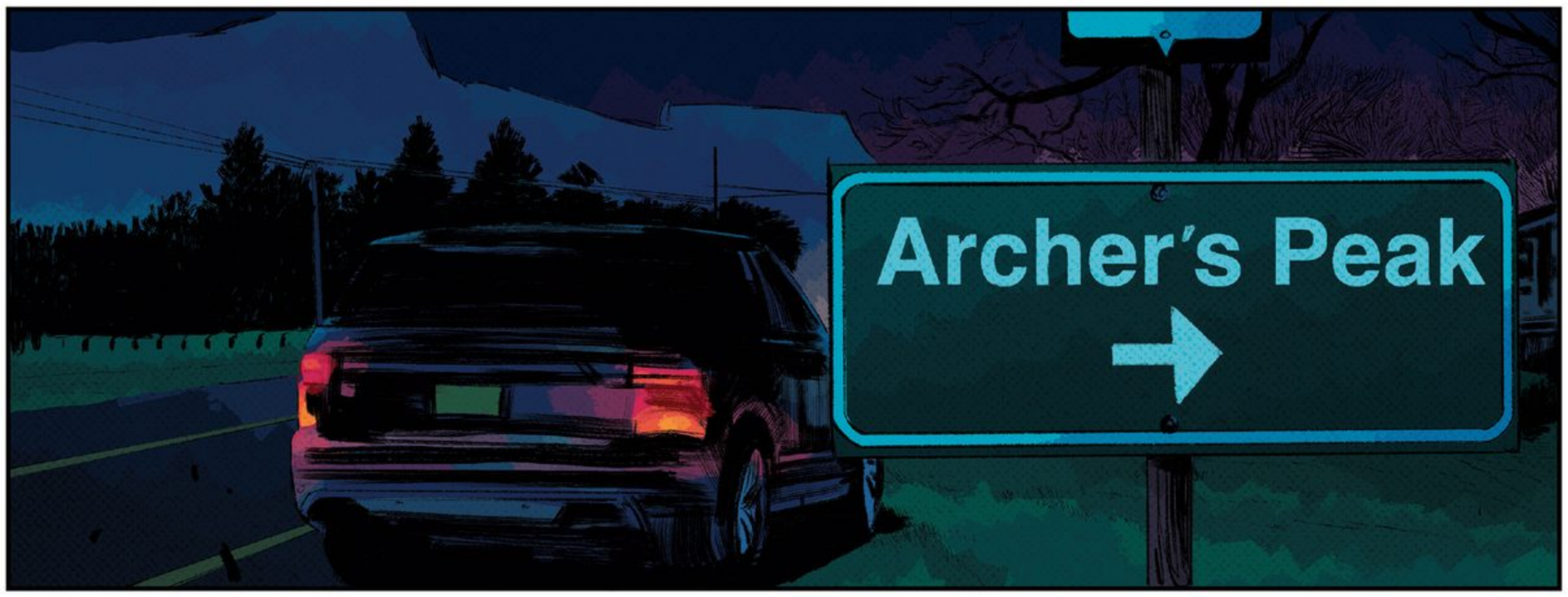
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

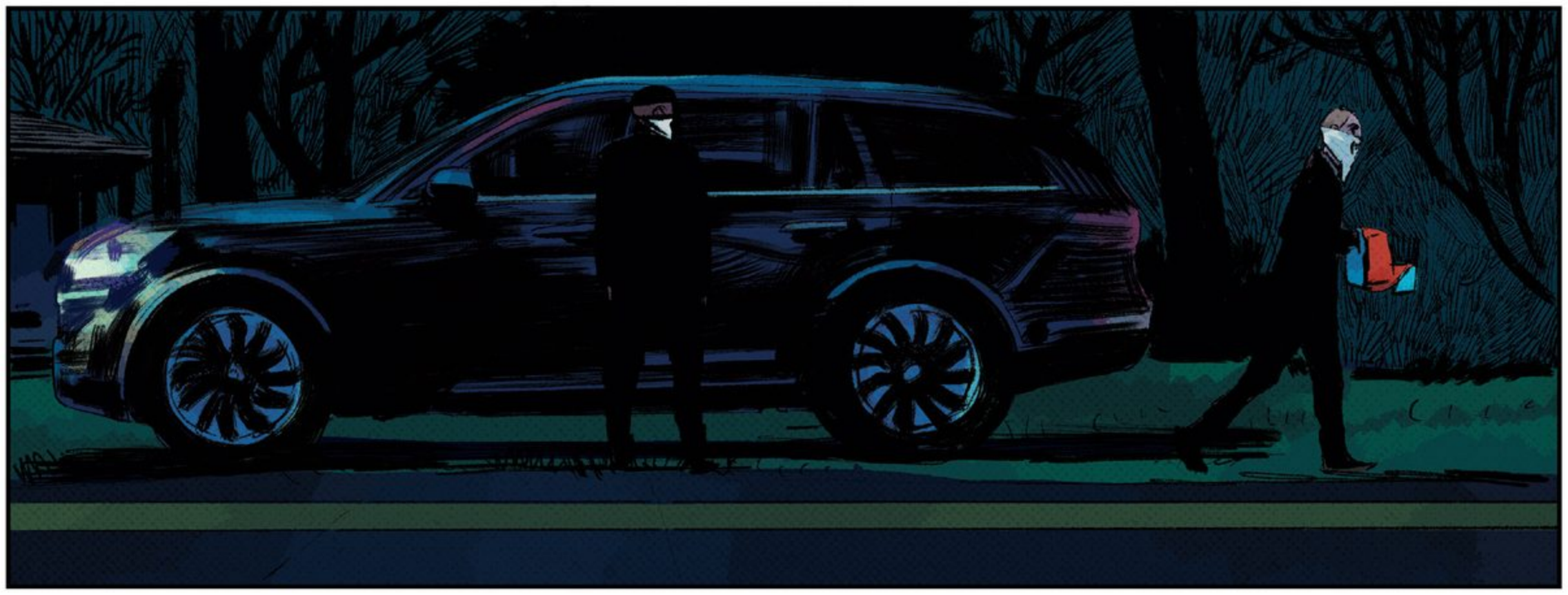
GET ME INSIDE. I CAN CLEAN MYSELF UP, AND EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS THE BEST I CAN. BUT WE NEED TO DO IT QUICK.

WHY?

BECAUSE THE *ORDER OF ST. GEORGE* IS COMING.

Archer's Peak


Archer's Peak



EXIT CLOSED

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

NICE KITCHEN.

TRY NOT TO ***BLEED*** ALL OVER IT, IF YOU CAN.

YEAH, I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY PROMISES.

I NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, BECAUSE ***NONE*** OF THIS MAKES ANY FUCKING SENSE TO ME.

I FEEL LIKE I'M SUFFOCATING AND I WANT TO ***SCREAM*** BUT I DON'T WANT TO FREAK OUT THE KID, BUT THE KIDS HAVE ALREADY SEEN THINGS MORE ***HORRIBLE*** THAN I CAN IMAGINE.

ANYTHING I DO FEELS LIKE IT'S ***NOT ENOUGH.*** ALL I WANT TO DO IS KEEP THEM SAFE.

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T TRY TO KNOCK YOU OUT OR ANYTHING.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THERE'S A LOT GOING ON HERE THAT'S JUST GOING TO SOUND MADE-UP TO YOU, AND THERE'S ***NO WAY*** TO PROVE IT WITHOUT PUTTING YOU IN A WHOLE LOT OF DANGER.

SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO NEED TO LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING AND ACCEPT IT, ***POINT BLANK.*** NO MORE POINTING GUNS AT ME AND RUNNING AWAY WITH KIDS.

OKAY.

MONSTERS ARE ***REAL.*** ONLY CHILDREN CAN SEE THEM. I'M PART OF AN ORGANIZATION OF ***MONSTER HUNTERS*** CALLED THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.

WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL WAY WE CAN SEE THEM, TOO.

THE MONSTER THAT ***KILLED*** MY FRIENDS AND ALL OF THE KIDS HAD FIVE BABIES, AND THEY'RE GOING TO ***EAT*** EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL IF WE DON'T LURE THEM AWAY.

AND THIS ORDER YOU'RE A PART OF...

THEY CARE MORE ABOUT MAKING SURE THE ***TRUTH*** ABOUT MONSTERS DOESN'T GET OUT THAN MAKING SURE PEOPLE STAY ***ALIVE.***

THIS SITUATION ESCALATED, AND THEY'RE GOING TO WANT TO CONTAIN IT BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

FUCK. OKAY.

SO...HOW DO YOU LURE ONE OF THESE THINGS? I'M GUESSING IT'S NOT JUST PUTTING A KID ON A MOUSE TRAP AND WAITING.

NO. IT REQUIRES TAPPING BACK INTO THE ***INVOCATION*** THAT CREATED THE MONSTER. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHERE'S BIAN?

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

I MEAN...I SEE BODIES. I THINK THERE ARE FOUR DEAD? OR MAYBE IT'S JUST BITS OF PEOPLE TOSSED AROUND WHILE THEY WERE FEEDING.

I DON'T SEE THE MONSTERS.

SO, IS THE COAST CLEAR? CAN PEOPLE LEAVE...?

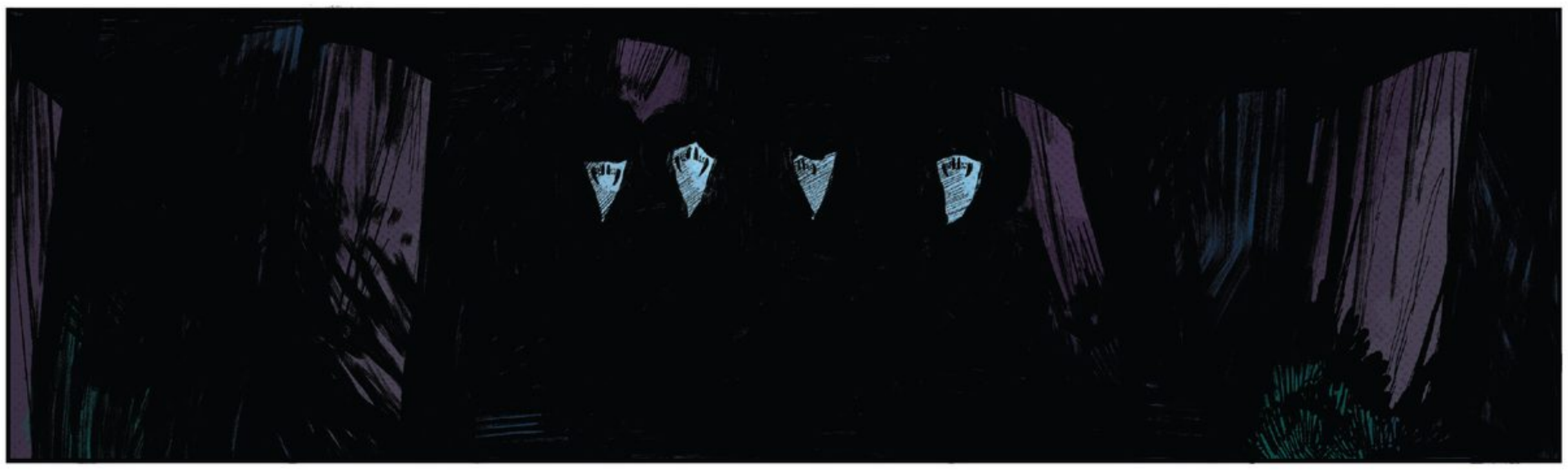
RRRRRRRR

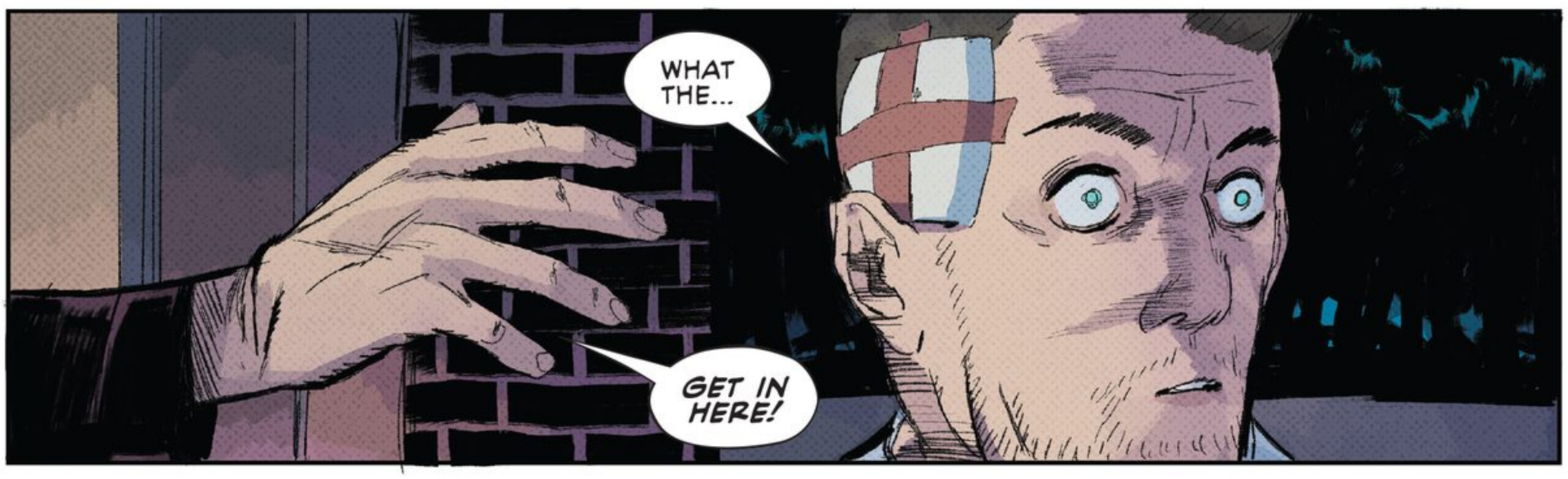
SHIT.

SHIT!

OPEN UP! LET ME IN!

WAIT...




WHAT THE...
GET IN HERE!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED OUT THERE?

ONE OF THEM SNUCK UP ON ME. I DROPPED THE WALKIE-TALKIE...
OKAY, SO WE'RE STUCK IN HERE.

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I SAW OUT THERE, SHERIFF...

HI, BIAN.

...

NOT GONNA TALK TO YOU.

YEAH?

YEAH. YOU WANTED TO ***HURT*** THE BABIES. THEY WEREN'T HURTING ANYBODY. THEY WERE JUST EATING WHAT THEIR ***MOMMA*** BROUGHT THEM.

I'M SORRY, HONEY.

THE BABIES ***GREW UP.*** THEY KILLED FOUR KIDS AND A GROWN-UP. AND ONE OF THEM TOOK A ***BITE*** OUT OF ME, TOO.

OH.

I GUESS...I WANTED THEM TO STAY SMALL AND NICE.

THAT'S THE FUNNY THING ABOUT MONSTERS. THEY ALL START PRETTY SMALL, BUT THEY GROW UP FAST.

BIAN, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME THE ***FIRST*** TIME YOU HEARD ABOUT THE MONSTERS.

I DON'T KNOW.

IT WAS BEFORE YOU ***SAW*** THEM, THOUGH, RIGHT? BEFORE THE MOMMA BROUGHT YOU TO THE ***CAVE?***

MY SISTER WAS HAVING A SLEEPOVER AT CARLY MONITZ'S HOUSE.

MY DADDY MADE ME GO TOO, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK HE LIKES US VERY MUCH.

WAIT... MONITZ? YOU MEAN... TYLER'S LITTLE SISTER?

YEAH.

TYLER WAS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WHO DIED IN THE RAVINE.

YEAH.

THEY WERE TELLING EACH OTHER ***SCARY STORIES,*** AND THEN CARLY'S BROTHER CAME IN AND SAID THAT THEIR STORIES WERE BABY STORIES.

BUT HE HAD A ***REAL*** SCARY STORY. THERE WAS A MONSTER IN THE RAVINE. THAT HIS FRIEND HAD ***SEEN*** IT. THAT IT ALMOST ATE HIM.

OH GOD...

SO THEY STARTED SAYING THAT THEY WEREN'T GOING TO GO IN THE WOODS SO THE MONSTER COULDN'T GET THEM, AND THEY LET THE OTHER KIDS AT SCHOOL KNOW NOT TO GO INTO THE WOODS.

BUT THEN THEIR FRIEND SARA STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.

SARA WASHINGTON. THE FIRST KID TO GO MISSING.

ERICA... I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

NO, JAMES. JUST ***LISTEN*** ANOTHER MINUTE.

THE MORE KIDS THAT ***WENT AWAY,*** THE MORE SCARED I GOT...AND I STARTED SEEING IT IN THE FOREST. SMALL AT FIRST...THEN BIGGER AND BIGGER.

AND THEN ONE DAY...IT ***TOOK*** ME...AND BROUGHT ME BACK TO ITS CAVE...AND I HAD TO PRETEND THAT I WAS ***DEAD.***

AND THEN IT GOT SO ***BIG*** IT STARTED HAVING BABIES.

AND THEN YOU CAME TO GET ME, AND THAT ***BOY*** GOT SHOT, AND NOW WE'RE HERE.

AND THE BABIES TURNED BAD.

SO NOW YOU HAVE TO ***KILL*** THE BABIES.

YOU'RE VERY SMART. YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER.

YEAH, I KNOW.

KEEP AN EYE ON HER A SECOND. I NEED TO HAVE A WORD WITH JAMES.

YEAH.

HEY.

HEY.

I THOUGHT... I DIDN'T *THINK* IT WAS MY FAULT.

IS IT *REALLY* MY FAULT?

IT'S *NOT* YOUR FAULT.

BUT IT CAME FROM *ME.* IT STARTED WITH ME.

YES.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN...?

IF IT DIDN'T START WITH YOU, IT WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT YOU ***ALIVE*** IN THE RAVINE THAT NIGHT.

I TOLD TYLER ABOUT THE MONSTER A WEEK BEFORE THE NIGHT THEY ALL DIED... THAT'S ***WHY*** HE ASKED ME THE MOST SCARED I'D EVER BEEN.

IT WASN'T REAL. IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, BUT I EXPLAINED IT LIKE IT ***WAS.*** THIS BIG-TOOTHED SCARY THING COMING OUT OF THE RAVINE.

BUT IT WAS REAL ENOUGH TO SPREAD.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. THERE ARE A ***LOT*** OF THINGS THAT NEED TO HAPPEN TO CREATE A MONSTER.

BUT AN ***UPSTANDING*** MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER CERTAINLY WOULDN'T ***REVEAL*** SUCH THINGS TO CHILDREN.

JAMES. GET BIAN AND RUN.

WHAT...? NO, I STILL HAVE MY *GUNSHOT*...I CAN'T RUN...

I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE BOY. RUNNING ISN'T AN OPTION.

SORRY, ERICA. THEY GOT THE ONE-UP ON ME...

IT'S OKAY, JOHN.

OKAY?

NO. IT ISN'T.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"A GAME OF NOWHERE"
PART TWO

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"